

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 24. (Cancelled).

25. (New) A combination of materials for preparing an external preparation containing carbon dioxide comprising:

a base agent that comprises a nonwoven cloth made of an elastic polymeric three-dimensional network structure impregnated with a viscous material containing an acid and water, wherein the base agent is adapted to contact with skin during use; and

a reactant that contains a carbonate, and is adapted to contact with the base agent during use so as to generate carbon dioxide,

wherein the formulation of the reactant is selected from a viscous liquid, an ointment, a cream, a paste and a fluid hydrogel.

26. (New) The combination of materials according to claim 25, wherein the reactant is supported on a sheet-like or bag-shaped support.

27. (New) The combination of materials according to claim 25 or 26, wherein the base agent is acidic and the reactant is alkaline.

28. (New) The combination of materials according to claim 25 or 26,

wherein the blending amount of the acid in the viscous material of the base agent is in a range of 0.05 to 30wt%, and

wherein the amount of the carbonate contained in the reactant is in a range of 0.5 to 10 parts by weight per one part by weight of the acid contained in the base agent.

29. (New) The combination of materials according to claim 25 or 26,

wherein the amount of the viscous material impregnated into the polymeric three-dimensional network structure is not less than 0.01 g per square centimeter.

30. (New) The combination of materials according to claim 25 or 26,

wherein the thickness of the polymeric three-dimensional network structure is in a range of 0.1 to 10 mm.

31. (New) An external preparation containing carbon dioxide comprising:

a base agent that comprises a nonwoven cloth made of an elastic polymeric three-dimensional network structure impregnated with a viscous material containing an acid and water, wherein the base agent is adapted to contact with skin during use; and

a reactant that contains a carbonate in contact with the base agent so as to generate carbon dioxide,

wherein the formulation of the reactant is selected from a viscous liquid, an ointment, a cream, a paste and a fluid hydrogel.

32. (New) The external preparation according to claim 31, wherein the reactant is supported on a sheet-like or bag-shaped support.

33. (New) The external preparation according to claim 31 or 32, wherein the base agent is acidic and the reactant is alkaline.

34. (New) The external preparation according to claim 31 or 32,

wherein the blending amount of the acid in the viscous material of the base agent is in a range of 0.05 to 30wt%, and

wherein the amount of the carbonate contained in the reactant is in a range of 0.5 to 10 parts by weight per one part by weight of the acid contained in the base agent.

35. (New) The external preparation according to claim 31 or 32,

wherein the amount of the viscous material impregnated into the polymeric three-dimensional network structure is not less than 0.01g per square centimeter.

36. (New) The external preparation according to claim 31 or 32,

wherein the thickness of the polymeric three-dimensional network structure is in a range of 0.1 to 10 mm.